

REMARKS

This is an amendment under 37 CFR §1.116. The purpose of the amendment is to put the claims in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance, or an Advisory Action if the present amendment fails to place the claims in a condition for allowance.

Claims 11-12, 14-20, and 25-27 are in this application. Claims 1-10, 13, and 21-24 have been cancelled. Claims 18-20 and 25-27 have been amended. Claims 11-12 and 14-17 have been allowed.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Kidder et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0031030 A1). As noted above, claims 1-10 and 21-22 have been cancelled.

The Examiner rejected claims 18-20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art FIG. 1 in view of Kidder et al. and further in view of Daudelin et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,591,389 B1). Claims 18-20 have been amended to indirectly depend from allowed claim 11. In addition, as noted above, claim 24 has been cancelled.

The Examiner rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Kidder and Daudelin et al. and further in view of Qin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,646,777 B2). Claim 25 has been amended to indirectly depend from allowed claim 11.

The Examiner rejected claims 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Kidder and Daudelin et al. and further in view of Neeley et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0012485 A1). Claims 26-27 have been amended to indirectly depend from allowed claim 11.

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Thus, for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, the Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are respectively requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

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By: _____



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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116,
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED

Atty. Docket No. 200-65501
(PB030022AF)